Issue No. 14, Winter 2004/2005

SORRT
NETWORK

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling

DATES

FEBRUARY 1, 2005
Annual recycling reports due for large businesses (250 or more employees).

FEBRUARY 2005
SORRT Business Recycling Seminar Locations and times to be determined.

MARCH 1, 2005
Annual recycling reports due for medium (100–249 employees) and selected small (less than 100 employees) businesses.

MARCH 2005
SORRT Business Recycling Seminar Locations and times to be determined.

APRIL 2005
Earth Month: Contact the SORRT Program at 240-777-6400 if you would like Division staff to participate in your Earth Day activity by setting up a display table and provide recycling, waste reduction and buying recycled information to your employees. Remember Earth Day is April 22.

MAY 16–23, 2005
Montgomery County Recycling Awareness Week: Nominations for the 2005 Business Recycling Awards are now being accepted. Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling for details. Nominations are due February 15, 2005.
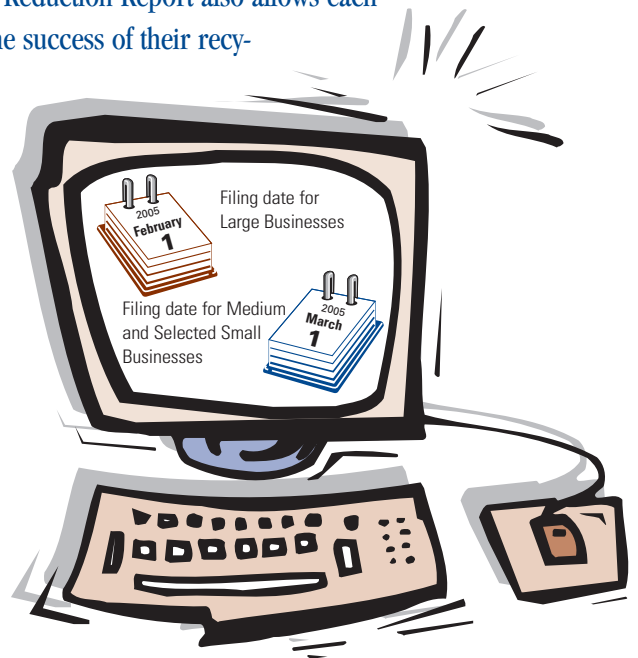
File Your Annual Recycling Report On Time. . . Online

Business recycling is the law in Montgomery County and as part of this requirement large, medium, and selected small businesses are required to file an Annual Recycling and Waste Reduction Report that provides the County with data on the types and quantities of materials recycled during the previous calendar year. This report is utilized by the County to help make decisions on future recycling programs and policies. It allows the county to quantify the success of County-wide recycling efforts.

This Annual Recycling and Waste Reduction Report also allows each individual business to measure the success of their recycling program and identify areas of opportunities to make improvement. Knowing this information can help you plan for future initiatives, conserve company and environmental resources, meet your legal requirements, and contribute to the County's goal of recycling 50 percent of all waste generated in Montgomery County.

Filing date for Large Businesses

Filing date for Medium and Selected Small Businesses

For convenience, Annual Recycling Reports can be mailed, faxed, or filed online at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling. Online filing is fast, convenient, and ensures your reports are received by the filing deadlines. To avoid a penalty, large businesses (250 or more employees) must file by February 1, 2005 and medium businesses (100-249 employees) must file their recycling reports by March 1, 2005. In addition, small businesess (less than 100 employees) that received written notices from the County must also file reports by March 1, 2005.

For assistance with these forms or any other related questions, contact Alan Pultyniewicz at 240-777-6400.

LESSONS IN RECYCLING

The Montgomery County Division of Solid Waste Services (DSWS) continues to work closely with the Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) system to ensure that all school facilities are in compliance with the County's recycling requirements and have recycling programs in place that allow students, staff, and visitors to recycle easily.

The Process

Since 2001, DSWS staff annually visits all public schools within the County and conducts an extensive review of their recycling infrastructure. County staff members look for appropriately labeled recycling containers with convenient and easy access and ensure schools have ample student and faculty educational programs. Staff also examines recycling containers to check for contamination, assess the amount of recyclables that are present in trash cans, and reviews a variety of additional factors. Schools are issued a letter grade (A-F) based on the results of this evaluation.

2004-2005 School Year Results

Most of the schools have adequate recycling infrastructures in place, with over 91 percent of the total 187 schools evaluated receiving passing grades (C or higher) on their recycling evaluations. This reflects an increase of 3.5 percent over schools that passed the recycling evaluations during the 2003-2004 school year, so the learning curve is steadily improving.

However, 16 schools (9 percent) received grades of D or F on their recycling evaluations and will need to make modifications to their existing programs, implement new processes, or expand training programs to ensure their students, faculty, and visitors can and do recycle. The following schools will have their recycling programs re-evaluated in the next several weeks:

Albert Einstein High School	Harmony Hills Elementary School
Benjamin Banneker Middle School	James Hubert Blake High School
Beverly Farms Elementary School	Judith A. Resnik Elementary School
Damascus Elementary School	Montgomery Blair High School
Gaithersburg High School	Northwood High School
Galway Elementary School	Redland Middle School
Georgian Forest Elementary School	Springbrook High School
Greencastle Elementary School	Westbrook Elementary School

Why is it Important?

Schools need to increase their efforts and improve their recycling programs and participation for several reasons. Their students are our future and they need to know both the importance of recycling and the value of protecting the earth's resources. Schools are very vital to the local community and all users must be afforded with an opportunity to recycle when visiting their local schools.

Upcoming Activities

The County will continue monitoring the MCPS recycling efforts and hopes that they continue to improve every year.

Help is also Available for Private Schools

Private schools are considered businesses in Montgomery County and are required to recycle. If your school would like the County to visit and provide onsite education to students or staff, please contact Alan Pultyniewicz at 240-777-640.

Recycling Checklist

Commercial properties and businesses MUST recycle the following materials if these products are generated:

- White office paper
- Newspapers (including inserts)
- Corrugated cardboard
- Glass bottles and jars
- Aluminum and bi-metal food and beverage cans
- Plastic food and beverage containers
- Yard trim (grass, leaves, and brush)

Businesses are encouraged to voluntarily recycle the following materials:

- Mixed paper
- Scrap metal
- Toner cartridges
- Pallets
- Computers

visit our Web site: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling • www.montgo